



Pryor Mountain
WILD MUSTANG CENTER

WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER

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2009 Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range Roundup

This year the largest gather in the history of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range took place. During the gather, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had a goal of removing approximately 70 horses. A contractor was brought in to gather the horses by helicopter. The gather started on September 3rd and continued until September 9th. During this time, 129 adults and 17 foals (out of 189 adults and 25 foals) were eventually gathered. Of these, 54 adults and 3 foals were removed and made available for adoption. This left an immediate post-gather population of 135 adults and 22 foals on the range. Also, 39 released females were treated with 22 month doses of the immunocontraceptive vaccine Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP).



Mescalero and Starman's harems are pushed into the Britton Springs facility during the gather.



BLM personnel treat a mare with PZP.

The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center volunteered to assist the BLM with the gather by having Director Matthew Dillon available for horse observation, identification, and documentation. Dillon ensured that documentation and sorting was accurate and that females received the proper fertility control treatment. Dillon's father Tom was also present to assist him, and the two worked together to learn up-to-date information on the gather and to photograph operations. The PMWMC's blog (http://pryormustangs.org/mustang_blog.shtml) was updated nightly with new information and photographs to allow for those unable to attend the gather to know of the day's events.

2009 Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Adoption

The Pryor Mountain Wild Horse adoption was on September 25th and 26th, which was also National Wild Horse Adoption Day, at the BLM's Britton Springs facility. On the 25th, horses available for adoption could be viewed and BLM personnel and PMWMC Director Matthew Dillon were available to answer questions. Professional horse trainer Ken McNabb also did two gentling demonstrations during the day. On the 26th, Britton Springs was full with those who came to watch another demonstration by Ken McNabb, view the horses, and to possibly adopt a horse. By the end of the adoption, all 51 horses and 3 mare-foal pairs found new homes. Such success was the result of hard work by the BLM, advocacy organizations, and individuals.

<p>2009 Adoption Prices</p> <p><i>Horses were adopted out through the competitive bidding process. The starting bid is \$125 for singles and \$250 for mare-foal pairs, though horses over 10 years of age can be sold for less than this.</i></p> <p>Low Bid: \$50 (sold) & \$125 (adopted)</p> <p>Average Bid: \$525</p> <p>High Bid: \$2500</p> <p># of bids less than \$1000: 40</p> <p># of bids of or over \$1000: 14</p>

Stiles

As the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center learned that older horses would likely be removed during the 2009 gather, plans were quickly developed to ensure that these older horses would find homes. Photographer Lynne Pomeranz assisted the PMWMC with making arrangements were made with the Monero

Mustangs wild horse sanctuary of New Mexico. In the end, the 11 year old stallion Stiles was given a new home



Stiles on the mountain shortly before the gather.

there. After spending time in Wyoming to acclimate, Stiles was transported to the sanctuary in early December by professional horse trainer Ken McNabb. The Center was thrilled to aide in finding Stiles a new home where he will be able to continue to live wild. Such a project was only possible through the generosity of supporters and the hard work of Lynne Pomeranz, Sandi Claypool, and Ken McNabb.

For more information on Stiles' new home, please visit the Monero Mustangs website at <http://www.moneromustangs.org>.

New Entryway

The entryway to the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center was completed this fall. Tall logs matching the building are flanked by rock walls made of native sandstone. Topping the walls are metal cutouts of a rearing stallion. PMWMC Board member Frank Heiser made the cutouts, which are based on a photograph of the stallion Stiles, written about above.



2009 Archive Project

The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center completed a project to archive the donated collections of Reverend Floyd Schwieger and Hope Ryden, two people who played very important roles in the creation of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range. The collections include a variety of slides, photographs, newspapers, correspondence, and other media.

The collections also serve as an important foundation for the PMWMC's developing research library. The library will contain media documenting the history of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range as well as other wild horse herds across the Nation.

This project was made possible by a generous private donation, and it was also supported in part by an award from the Wyoming State Historical Records Advisory Board, through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration.

Wild Horse Policy Changes

This is a historic time for the management of wild horses. Plans to bring wild herds across the West to their Appropriate Management Levels are leading to large gathers while low adoption demand is causing wild horse populations in long-term holding facilities. Due to the problems arising from this, numerous ideas that seek to modernize existing policies and laws have been proposed. The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center agrees that the success of the National Wild Horse and Burro Program depends on the development and implementation of modern policies and management strategies.

The PMWMC, in cooperation with Friends of a Legacy (FOAL), recently submitted a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar requesting that a moratorium be placed on non-emergency gathers to allow for the National Wild Horse and Burro Program to be modernized. The two organizations have also spent time researching and developing suggestions for two major proposals, the Senate version of the Restore Our American Mustangs Act (S.1579) and Secretary Salazar's recent proposals for wild horse and burro management. Though the PMWMC does not agree with them in their entirety, these two proposals are encouraging as they bring needed attention to wild horses. Submitted comments for these proposals are available for viewing on the PMWMC's website.

Educational Board Game

The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center recently received a new addition to its educational programs. The Bureau of Land Management, in cooperation with the Western Heritage Center, provided the PMWMC with a copy of its new educational board game "History Mystery II: Pryor Mountain Wild Horses." This large board game creatively introduces students to the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses while also teaching the concept of gathering research from multiple sources. The board game is available for educators to check out. For more information on History Mystery II: Pryor Mountain Wild Horses, please contact the PMWMC or the Western Heritage Center.



Wild Horse Family Trees

The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center has expanded its Pryor Mountain Wild Horses database back in time due to the exciting discovery of notebooks kept by Lynne Taylor, who worked for the BLM for many years. These notebooks, combined with the notes of Reverend Floyd Schwieger, the BLM, and others have allowed for the development of herd kinship charts including well over 90% of the Pryor herd since 1976. Further analysis of photographs and other notes this year will allow for even better understanding, though it is unlikely that 100% of known horses will be in the final database.

Guided Tours

This year was the second in which the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center conducted small group tours of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range. These day-long tours bring visitors into the four-wheel drive accessible areas of the range where most of the herd can be found and viewed. Visitors are also treated to the beautiful views and scenery of East Pryor Mountain. The tours work as an important fundraiser for the PMWMC while also providing visitors with a unique and memorable experience. Reservations for tours in summer of 2010 are being made, and the PMWMC is excited to bring new and repeat visitors on future tours.

Fertility Control

The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center believes that the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses must be managed. It believes that the best available method for managing the herd is fertility control with the immunocontraceptive vaccine Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP) as fertility control can reduce or eliminate the need for large gathers, like the 2009 gather. Though misconceptions for PZP are common, it has been proven to be safe, effective, and inexpensive. The wild horses of Assateague Island have been managed exclusively with PZP since 1994, and this management program has been very successful. PZP was used in the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range from 2001 to 2007, and the PMWMC supports the reimplementation of a fertility control program there.

Recently, PMWMC Director Matthew Dillon and Friends of a Legacy (FOAL) President Marshall Dominick received training on administering PZP. The PMWMC and FOAL hope to be able to assist the BLM with fertility control programs for the Pryor Mountain and McCullough Peaks wild horses.

Pryor Mountain Wild Horses Update

In 2009, 37 new foals were found. The first foal was born during the first week of April while the last was born toward the end of August. Following the removal of 3 foals and the death of 13 foals, there are now 21 foals.



2009 foal Jemez seems to be a rare apricot dun roan.



22 year old Beauty is currently the oldest horse on the range.

Just prior to the gather this summer, there were 189 adult horses; currently 135 adults are on the range.

Days before the gather, the oldest stallion on the range, Shaman, died at age 22. Shaman was one of the most successful stallions to ever live on the range. This leaves the 20 year old stallion Two Boots as both the oldest stallion and the oldest harem stallion. The 22 year old grulla mare Beauty remains the oldest horse.

The herd has migrated to the winter range now, and the horses are well prepared as winter arrives.

2010 Goals

Many generous supporters donated to the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center in 2009. These donations allowed the PMWMC to continue its mission of promoting and preserving the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses and their mountain home. In 2010, the PMWMC has set fundraising goals to allow for the continuation of existing projects and the following new ones:

- **New Multimedia Curriculum Packet:** This updated packet will include a DVD, reference materials, and curriculum to aide educators in teaching about wild horses.
- **Fertility Control Assistance:** The PMWMC hopes to aide the BLM in providing fertility control to the herd. (Please see related story.)
- **Library Development:** Small donated collections will be archived and a collection of wild horse National Environmental Policy Act documents will be made available on the PMWMC website.

Please join us in achieving our goals by donating today!

Wind Drinker 1000

"When wild horses run, they look like they are drinking the wind." ~ Reverend Floyd Schwieger

The Board of Directors main fundraising program is the Wind Drinker 1000 campaign. The goal of the Wind Drinker 1000 is to receive gifts of \$100 or more from 1000 donors to raise at least \$100,000. These funds allow the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center to operate and carry out its projects and programs.

The names of all Wind Drinker 1000 donors are on plates featured on a permanent display in the PMWMC, which is designed to hold 1000 name plates. Upon completion of the campaign, each Wind Drinker 1000 donor will also be entered in a drawing for a limited edition bronze sculpture of "A Family Matter" by T.D. Kelsey. The piece is 30" x 20" x 14" and is one of only twenty being offered to the public.

The PMWMC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and donations made to it are tax-deductible.

Donations may be made online at <http://www.pryormustangs.org>, over the telephone, or through the mail. Please mail the form below to:

Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center
P.O. Box 385
Lovell, WY 82431

Enclosed is my contribution of \$10 \$50 \$250 \$1,000
 \$25 \$100 \$500 (Other) \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

For a gift of \$100 or more, you will receive a personalized plate on a permanent display in the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center. Please write how you would like your plate to read below. *(Generally, the top line is used for names and the bottom for locations.)*

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____